

AS APPROVED

**Golf Commission Meeting
December 15, 2008
Minutes**

Members Present: Thomas Galla, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Sue Casey; Ron Dray; Don Espach; George Furkiotis; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson; Jim Steidlmayer

Members Absent: None

Chairman Tom Galla called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Review and approval of the Minutes

Review and approval of the Minutes of November 24, 2008... There was a motion made by Mr. Gerstman seconded by Mrs. Casey to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Mr. Espach moved to nominate Thomas Galla as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one unanimous ballot for Thomas Galla.

Mr. Espach thanked Mr. Galla for his work and dedication in leading the Golf Commission over the years and his willingness to take the golf course into the future.

Mr. Johnson moved to nominate Owen Evans as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one unanimous ballot for Owen Evans.

Mr. Galla took the opportunity to thank Mr. Evans for his many years of dedicated service to the Golf Commission.

Audience Participation

- Mr. Al DeWalt of the Sr. Men's Club asked if the financial results of the fiscal year ending 6/30/08 were available. Mr. Espach responded that at this point

preliminary numbers indicate the golf course will finish the year \$10,000 in the black, but that official audited results are not yet available.

General Manager Report (Bobby Brown)

Previous Meeting Follow-up:

- DaVinci Paving was issued a letter by Mr. Bob Chimini, Town of Trumbull Purchasing Agent, canceling their purchase order for failing to provide services as required in their cart path paving bid in a timely manner.
- Mr. Brown was asked to look into the feasibility of utilizing pond water instead of town water to water the course. It is believed that the cost to convert our pump house to pull water in addition to pushing water as well as the costs associated with resizing the ponds, obtaining the proper permits, and water testing will make the project prohibitive. However, a ballpark estimate will be obtained to determine the costs involved in converting the pump house.

Golf Course Maintenance:

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Superintendent (Ed Zenisky); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- One part-time greenskeeper on call (Vinny DeFransesco)
- The following projects have been completed:
 - Sprayed all greens, the Glen tees and fairways, and #8 and #9 tees on the Knolls for snow mold.
 - Covered #7 & #8 Glen greens with turf blankets will cover the newly sodded tees on #8 and #9 Knolls.
 - Snow fences will be put up on all three practice greens and greens #1, 4, 7, 13, 14, and 17. Snow fences were also put up on Glen #3 to discourage sled riders. Due to the cost involved in purchasing additional snow fences, the fences were only put up in areas most likely to experience sled riding.
 - All on-course supplies were brought in and stored for the winter.
 - Equipment maintenance has begun. All costly repairs will be cleared through the General Manager.
 - Ponds #1 and #2 were drawn down.
- Projects include:
 - Winter list from Greens Committee.

Greens Committee (Owen Evans)

- Mr. Evans received a response regarding the Greens Committee winter project list from Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima. The majority of the work can be done in-house. Mr. Evans will meeting with Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima with a few questions and will submit a revised winter project list to the Commission.

Golf Course Operations:

- November rounds on the Knolls were 1,420 and the Glen had 372 rounds. Total income was \$47,573, which was down 7% from 2007 due to the abnormally cold and rainy weather.
- The Thanksgiving Day shotgun had 29 players.
- The golf course closed for the 2008 season on December 7th, following 3” of snow and the cold and rainy weather that followed the snow. The Pro Shop closed on December 15th for credits.

Plant and Facility (Tony Johnson):

- Mr. Brown and Mr. Johnson have contacted Added Comfort for a quote to changeover the thermostat in the Pro Shop so it will only run as needed and not continuously. Added Comfort has also been asked to do a walk through of the building and in particular the attic for an analysis of the scope of work to be done.

Food and Beverage:

- None.

Executive (Tom Galla)

- None

Finance (Don Espach)

- Mr. Espach reported that the November numbers were not great due to the early cold weather. Our income is currently running 3% higher than last year but we need to run 6.5% higher in order to meet our budget requirements. Mr. Brown took the opportunity to report that despite the numbers, he was cautiously optimistic regarding the future of Tashua Knolls. He said that the course had its best year in at least the past eight years. We had over 40,000 rounds on the Knolls and the Glen exceeded our budget. He referenced a report from Pellucid Corp. (attached) regarding the state of affairs in the golf industry. He stated that we have a great opportunity next year as long as we continue to offer outstanding customer service and come up with a plan for some innovative programs for the next 3 – 5 years.

Correspondence

- The Tashua Knolls Men’s Club submitted its requests for their 2009 outings. A brief discussion was held regarding the fact that the Tashua Knolls Restaurant is unavailable for some of the Club’s Sunday events. The club was asked if it could

either change its dates or plan its events sooner. Mr. Chris Lenzen, of the Men's Club, responded that most of their events are dependent on other clubs and/or golf organizations that determine when the events can be held. The Commission requested that Mr. Brown discuss the situation with Mr. Faustini, Concessionaire, to determine if any solution can be reached.

Mr. Johnson made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to approve the Tashua Knolls Golf Club requests for the 2009 season as follows: 1) May 17, One Day Member/Member, modified shotgun start; 2) May 2, 3, 9 and 10, Presidents Cup; 3) June 26, Tashua Glen, shotgun start, Master's Par 3 Tournament; 4) June 27 and 28, Two Day Member/Member, modified shotgun start; 5) July 25, 26 and August 1, 2, Club Championship; 6) August 14, Tashua Glen, shotgun start, Master's Par 3 Tournament; 7) August 15 and 16, Two Day Member/guest, modified shotgun start, resident rates; 8) September 20 and 27, 3rd Annual Ryder Cup, 14 tee times. Motion carried unanimously.

- The Tashua Knolls Sr. Men's Club submitted its requests for their 2009 outings. They requested 4 hours of block time every Wednesday morning from April through Thanksgiving. Per the Tashua Knolls Golf Commission's Policy & Procedures, the block time will stand at 3.5 hours. The Sr. Men's Club also requested the Commission consider offering resident rates for all Sr. Men's Club members on Wednesday mornings. The Commission tabled the request until such time as the 2009 rates can be established.

Mr. Gerstman made a motion; seconded by Mr. Dray to approve the Sr. Men's Club request for an interclub event to be held on a Wednesday (date to be determined based on course availability) with a modified shotgun start for 90 golfers at resident rates and 2) for a Junior Event to be held on Tuesday, July 7 with a block time beginning at 8:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- Mr. Galla reported that he would like to vote on rates for the 2009 season at the January Commission meeting. The reason for this is that some of the final numbers for the budget in the areas of salaries, utilities, and reimbursement to the general fund will not be available until that time. Having accurate expenditure numbers will allow us to more effectively establish the rates. Mr. Brown added that some of the other area golf courses are coming in with their rates for next season. Smith Richardson has raised its rates and Mr. Brown will be analyzing what other courses are doing. Also, Mr. Brown stated that this is the time to get creative with our program offerings and course utilization.

Old Business

- Mr. Espach proposed a budget for the 2009/10 fiscal year for the Tashua Knolls Golf Course of \$2,010,569 - essentially flat from fiscal 2007/08. Mr. Espach reported that the only real changes to the budget were \$25,000 for badly needed sand for the bunkers and \$15,000 for a replacement A/C unit.
- Mr. Galla took the opportunity to thank Mr. Brown, Mr. Nagashima, Mr. Janik and Mrs. Plumeau for all of their efforts regarding planning the budget based on the Commission directive to keep the budget flat for the next fiscal year. In September after the initial budget was proposed, Mr. Galla and Mr. Espach held a series of meetings with Mr. Brown to fine tune the budget. Following the meetings, the entire Commission received the proposed budget for review and was given the opportunity to submit questions. Mr. Galla also commended Mr. Espach for his diligence and his many meetings regarding the budget. Mr. Galla

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Furkiotis to accept the budget as proposed with the understanding that there may be small adjustments in the salary, utility, and general fund accounts. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM was made by Mrs. Casey; seconded by Mr. Gerstman. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau
Golf Commission Clerk